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Davis delivers federal funding for Chamber move

SPENCER, Tenn., April 24, 2010 — U.S. Representative Lincoln Davis and USDA Rural Development Area Director Jerry Jolley today announced a federal investment in the Greater Van Buren County-Spencer Chamber of Commerce for the purchase and renovation of a building on the historic courthouse square. The new facility will provide space for Chamber operations, visitor information and needed meeting space for community organizations.

"This is an investment in Spencer and Van Buren County's future," said Davis. "I am proud to support vital projects in our rural communities as long as it is done in a fiscally responsible manner and benefits the community as a whole."

Chamber President Ann McCormick said the USDA Rural Development grant of \$99,500 will have an immediate and long term impact on the local economy.

"The renovations will be an immediate economic boost since the money will be spent locally, and the new space will help us bring people to the square more often. That's good for all our main street businesses," she said.

Others participating in the event included Van Buren County Mayor Kelly Dishman, Rural Development Acting Area director Jerry Jolley and specialist Jimmy Allen.

"Small business is the economic engine of rural communities, creating jobs and helping maintain a healthy, diversified local economy," said Jolley. "Thanks to the support of Congressman Davis, Rural Development has the financial resources to make this investment in the future of Spencer and Van Buren County."

Rural Development business grants help local governments and non-profit organizations improve local business infrastructure and promote job growth. Business loan-guarantees are also available to help private lenders to increase the pool of investment capital available for business start-up, modernization and expansion in eligible rural areas.

USDA Rural Development invests in jobs, community infrastructure, homeownership and affordable rental housing in rural communities. Last year Rural Development assisted more than 866,000 Tennessee families and businesses with more than \$619 million in financial assistance through affordable loans, loan guarantees and grants.

For more information on Rural Development programs available in Van Buren County contact the Rural Development Area Office in Cookeville at 931-528-6539 ext. 2, toll free at 1-800-342-3149 extension 1493, or visit us online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn.